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NOVEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 10 ISSUE 11

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MEET YOUR VENDOR: JOE WOODS, PAGE 3

GROUND COVER



NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

STORIES
OF
SERVICE



Chelsea resident Cassie Michael will share from her experiences as a Marine at the Nov. 6 *Stories of Service*, benefiting the Ann Arbor VA Fisher House. Page 6

Ann Arbor's new police chief, Michael Cox, proclaims strong support for Groundcover



ELIZABETH "LIT" KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 159

There are about 100 street newspapers around the world, about half of them in the United States. Whenever I hear of one of the few cities that has a street paper, my antenna immediately goes up in recognition. Such was the case when Ann Arbor announced that its new police chief, Michael Cox, is from Boston, where *Spare Change* is sold.

I attended the first of two "meet and greets" on Oct. 10 at Pittsfield Elementary School to make certain Chief Cox was aware that Boston and Ann Arbor have street papers in common. As a welcoming gesture, I presented

Cox with our two special editions and the current month's issue and took the opportunity to share with him the vital role that the paper plays in the

lives of those who lack mainstream housing.

He not only accepted the current edition but offered a generous tip which I had not expected. He also welcomed a meeting between officers and vendors in order to strengthen communications.

I used the opportunity to let him know that *Groundcover News* (like all street papers) not only provides a source of income for vendors but offers timely and relevant stories and information about the struggles of those living with housing instability. From *Spare Change* in Boston to

Sacramento Sheets, from *Groundcover News* to *The Contributor* in Nashville, Tenn., the street-paper concept bridges the gap between the housed and the unhoused. Through these papers, our communities and their leaders can bridge the gap between these too-often disconnected communities.

I was extremely proud and honored to introduce the street paper concept to our chief of police, Michael Cox. The City of Ann Arbor not only has a new police chief but a new *Groundcover* customer. ●

New podcast captures vendor stories

ELIJAH KLEIN
Groundcover Community High intern

My name is Elijah Klein. I am a new member to the *Groundcover* team, and I've really enjoyed my time so far. I have made a podcast about *Groundcover*, in which I interview vendors and we talk about life while being homeless. I just recorded the first episode, which you can now find on Spotify under the name *Groundcover*.

I came up with the idea for making a podcast because once I started being around the office and talked to more people, I realized that the people at *Groundcover* are very intelligent and have a lot of things they are passionate about and like to talk about. The vendors have stories and things to say, but other than the newspaper, they've had no platform to express these things. I want the podcast to be a place where I ask basic questions, but let it turn into a conversation about whatever the person I'm interviewing feels strongly about.

The first recording went well. I spoke with a vendor named Tony, who many of you readers have

seen. He's worked with *Groundcover* almost since its beginning. I went into the recording thinking he would say a lot of negative things about his experience and how the area treats the homeless, but I was pleasantly surprised when he talked about how Ann Arbor gives a lot of opportunities and tries to help. He said that the people of Ann Arbor are courteous, and that he has made friends through selling the paper. He did say that lack of affordable housing is an issue facing the area, but that there is at least some progress with that. He made me realize that things may not be as bad as some people make them out to be. I also got some good advice, such as to keep your head up and keep going no matter what gets thrown in your way, and to be grateful and appreciative for what you have. You may have heard these things a million times, but hearing it from someone who truly has been through a lot and has had to use the advice is something completely different, and I will always be grateful for the words Tony spoke to me. I will keep them in my mind for whenever I need to hear them. ●

very easily make people give up, these individuals push through adversity, because that's how you get where you want to be. Tony said the experience of homelessness has made him a better person, because it really made him appreciate everything in his life a lot more. "You only appreciate what you really have once you lose it all," Tony said, and I couldn't agree more.

I had a very good time recording the podcast. It opened my eyes and helped me realize things aren't necessarily as bad as some people make them out to be. I also got some good advice, such as to keep your head up and keep going no matter what gets thrown in your way, and to be grateful and appreciative for what you have. You may have heard these things a million times, but hearing it from someone who truly has been through a lot and has had to use the advice is something completely different, and I will always be grateful for the words Tony spoke to me. I will keep them in my mind for whenever I need to hear them. ●

There are always going to be hardships with homelessness, but there are positive things you can look at instead of dwelling on the negative. You should always try to make the best out of what you have, and I believe there are not many people who do that better than formerly homeless people such as Tony. Even with a hand dealt to them that could

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Jim McBee — managing editor
Andrew Nixon — editor

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



JOE WOODS, VENDOR NO. 103

In one sentence, who are you?
I am the GOAT when it comes to this game.

Where do you normally sell *Groundcover*?
Cherry Republic

When and why did you start selling *Groundcover*?
July 2012. I was looking for work.

What's your favorite thing about selling *Groundcover*?
You never know what the day is going to bring.

What's something our readers should know?
I'm passionate about what I do.

What's the most interesting thing that's ever happened to you while selling *Groundcover*?
Every day is a new adventure when selling *Groundcover*.

How would you like to see Ann Arbor change for the better?
Make housing cheaper. ●

Delicate

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
Groundcover contributor

She bends, a flower
gives, and
the snow won't seem
kind in the morning
fall...
As her chair moves, she pushes
on
while leaves are green.

To honor their passing...



PAULA ANDERSON
Groundcover vendor No. 157

I found this quote for one of my neighbors' obituaries. I thought it was the nicest quote.

"We can't know why the lily has so brief a time to bloom in the warmth of sunlight's kiss upon its face before it folds into its fragrance and bids the world good night to rest its beauty in a gentler place. But we can know that nothing that is loved is ever lost and no one who has touched a heart can really pass away because some beauty lingers on in each memory of which they've been a part."

— Ellen Breneman

Should corrections officers wear body cameras?

AARON ST. GERMAIN
Prison correspondent

We see police brutality in the media — people sworn to protect and serve are the ones we fear. Prison is no different. Not every corrections officer is a bad one, but there is a very us (inmates) vs. them (corrections officers) mentality.

Officers can be cruel and degrading, and with complete authority they dictate our lives in here. Cameras are in place, but there is no audio. A CO can cuss you out, degrade you or threaten to harm you. But the grievance you file is denied due to a lack of evidence. Now, if an inmate threatens or degrades a guard, it is written up as insolence or threatening behavior (for which you get sent to solitary confinement) and you are found guilty because it is our word against theirs — and the CO wins everytime.

I had the opportunity to talk with some COs about how they felt about having to wear a body cam in prison. A constant in their answers was that they don't like it because they like to "talk shit" with the inmates and other COs. Some COs felt that the way they conduct themselves as officers isn't completely wrong. They admit to doing things that might be frowned upon, but they don't view it as wrong.

For example, they like to tell other inmates what inmates are in prison for. The worst thing you can be in a prison for other than a snitch is a "chomo," a child molester. Some COs feel it is their duty to tell or warn other inmates when a chomo is in the unit. When inmates find out, they tell their homeboys (nine out of 10 times they are gang-affiliated) and they go to the alleged chomo and tell him, "Hey man, we can protect you if you pay us X amount a month." This is a common practice in prison

known as squeezing; you are squeezing what he's got out of him.

Other COs think squeezing is wrong and shouldn't be allowed, but those COs use people for another reason: information. These COs like to know who has drugs, cell phones, knives and so on. They like to keep their informants confidential.

I've also talked to some inmates about what they thought about COs wearing body cams and everyone loved the idea. My transgender friend embraced the idea because then her grievances regarding harassment and degradation would be found to be with merit. Another guy liked the idea because he would use the body cam to identify snitches if he got busted for drugs (assuming he had access to the video). Another guy liked it because then the COs couldn't try to frame you with a banger — a homemade knife, usually sharpened metal — or drugs or whatever.

I think we'd see a lot more truth with the body cams. But at the same time, small favors from COs would disappear. For instance, sometimes guys are allowed to go into another part of the unit to get money for the store, or a CO might even give you a pen or pencil. COs mustn't have favorites, so if it is known that they do it for some, they'll have to do it for everyone, and they're not allowed to become overly familiar with prisoners.

The injustice of shady COs has to end. But will the body cams hurt more than they help?

Aaron St. Germain #852963
Brook Correction Facility
2500 S. Sheridan Dr.
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444 ●



Homelessness Awareness Week, November 16-24: Events throughout Washtenaw County

Groundcover staff

Every year, over 5,000 people experience homelessness right here in Washtenaw County. Many more experience food instability.

Each November, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week serves as a nationwide spotlight, highlighting the issues of hunger and homelessness in our country. This year, the week takes place Nov. 16-24. The Washtenaw Housing Alliance and other local agencies and organizations have a variety of events planned to honor the week and provide awareness, education and advocacy opportunities for our community.

The film, "Owned: A Tale of Two Americas," will show the next day, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. The \$10 tickets are available at the Michigan Theater and its website.

Students from the University of Michigan, Concordia and Eastern Michigan University will sleep outside the night of Nov. 19 to raise awareness about the problem of homelessness. Students may use sleeping bags, cardboard boxes or tents. While most of the night will be spent sleeping, the first couple hours will include speakers, discussions or activities to educate the participants about homelessness. Contact Samantha Adams of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County at 734-662-2829 ext. 226 for more information about joining fellow students in this event.

On Thursday, Nov. 21 from 2-5 p.m., Packard Health, U-M Medical, Ozone House, the WHA and the SAWC are teaming up at the Delonis Center (312 W. Huron

Arbor and Ypsilanti) will take place on Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. It will start at Liberty Square Plaza and wend through downtown Ann Arbor, ending back at Liberty Plaza where people will be invited to speak about and listen to people sharing their stories about housing insecurity.

All are invited and encouraged to participate. Organizers of the event include GDC Local 12, Huron Valley Democratic Socialists, Mission, Journey of Faith Church, Poor People's Campaign, and people affected by the housing crisis in Washtenaw County.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening at 7:15 p.m.

The SAWC is sponsoring a Road Rally from 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, starting at the Delonis Center. Participants will learn about the city of Ann Arbor as they follow clues and vie to finish first. A sale of Shelter Association client art, an open mic and cash bar will follow the rally. Register through the SAWC by November 4. The \$25 per person entry fee will benefit the SAWC.

The SAWC is also challenging community members to discover ways they can help the homeless community (Sunday, Nov. 17) and take the SNAP Challenge by limiting weekly spending on food to \$28 or fasting for the day and making others aware of why they are doing it and the underlying issue of hunger in our community (Wednesday, Nov. 20). ●

Street in Ann Arbor) to provide a day of free health care for those living with homelessness. This free community event is designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, prevent and manage diseases and connect people with the available community resources they need.

Unpacking the 'brochure'

JERRY CHARBONNEAU
Groundcover volunteer

I was driving on Ann Arbor's west side going from a local church on Miller Avenue to run an errand when I got caught in slow traffic on North Maple. While I was engaged in my usual critique of urban life, I noticed many of the housing units were multi-family and were called cooperatives. I also noticed while I was waiting for a school bus to unload that most of the students were minorities, mostly black.

Meanwhile, I pondered the larger issue of land use in Ann Arbor and the experience of oppression and pain of place.

I decided to review my column from the September 2019 edition of Groundcover, in which I interviewed the resident councils of three low-income public housing complexes. The first group was a public housing complex called Green Baxter Court. The residents expressed the pain and oppression of being trapped in their current living place with no hope for improvement. They were people of color, again mostly black.

The next focus group was at the Hikone community, which likewise was comprised largely of people of color — again, mostly black.

Groundcover will continue to be a voice of the silenced.

The third focus group meeting was with folks at the Bryant community. Again, residents expressed the pain of an oppressive housing system, which offered them no hope. Once again, the place and identity of the residents closely resembled the others. ●

The stories of the residents of these three low-income public housing projects are not in the "brochure" many Ann Arbor residents are smoking. Only the great things the city is doing are in the brochure. (The brochure is a metaphor for the city's self-image as a great place to live, its status as most-educated, its U-M's "Leaders and Best" slogan, all those Top 10 lists.)

The pattern I see is that the city's low-income housing communities and minority populations are often hidden away, out of sight from the mainstream — not included in the "brochure." People of color are tucked away.

Recently, at a presentation on neo-colonization and academia at U-M's School of Social Work, Dr. Clelia Rodriguez addressed how colonization was present at the university. Rodriguez claimed the university believed it was doing well by addressing oppression, but she criticized this saying it is the privileged who speak, not the minorities. She reminded me of the importance of place in social life. Residents of public housing in Ann Arbor are the victims of colonization. Of being trapped in a place that satisfies the beliefs and preferences of the privileged but does not offer change for all residents.

Next month's column will address the liberation of public housing residents and possibilities of how they might change their destiny. (Hint: *How do the disenfranchised discover their rights?*) ●



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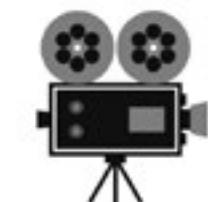
Hunger & Homelessness Week Events

Nov. 17th



Service Sunday

Nov. 18th



Washtenaw Housing Alliance Film Screening

Nov. 19th



Campus Sleep-Out

Nov. 20th



SNAP Challenge
Dine-In Move-Out

Nov. 21st



Comedy For A Cause

Nov. 21st



Health & Wellness Fair

Nov. 22nd



SAWC Road Rally

Nov. 23rd



Day of Caring

For more information, contact Samantha Adams at
734.662.2829 (ext 226) or visit annarborshelter.org



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NOVEMBER 2019 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Nov 3 Totenfest Memorial service, 8:30 and 10 AM
Nov 7 & Dec 7 German Pretzel Sales, 11-1, \$1 or \$10 dozen
Pre-order at 734-665-6149

Nov 8 Fall Bazaar and Luncheon, 10 AM – 2 PM
Ticket orders 734-665-6149

Nov 14 All Church Game Night, 6:30-8:30
Football parking in the church lot
Nov 16 & 30 Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15

LOOKING AHEAD – Dec 6 will be our LIVING NATIVITY, 6-8:30 pm

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8:30 a.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Sunday school
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Stories of Service powers healing, funds family support for ailing veterans



SUSAN BECKETT
Publisher

Military veterans treated at the Veterans Administration hospital in Ann Arbor come from the entire Great Lakes region and often stay for long periods of time. Like a Ronald McDonald House for our military and veteran families, a Fisher House allows families to stay together when veterans require in-patient care at a VA hospital.

She now feels that sharing her experiences could be valuable to her, and she wants to shed some light on a woman's experience in the military and dispel some commonly held misperceptions — take, for example, her road to the Marines. She enlisted after a single semester at U-M Flint, not because she was struggling — in fact, she had a 4.0 average and no financial concerns — but because she was bored.

"I never had to work for anything," Michael said. "I wanted to do something that would shock people and prove to myself I could do something tough. I googled 'toughest branch of service' and the Marines came up. I was 18 and enlisted. My mom cried when I came home and told her. Being a Marine was my first job."

Before deployment to Iraq, Michael endured harassment, sexual assault and coercion and was soon asking herself, "What have I done and how can I get out of this?"

She was very angry and her sense of self-worth had been severely diminished. She was then vulnerable to the systematic negative indoctrination she says she received regarding the Iraqi people. She was enraged when she was summarily separated from her combat engineering unit and assigned to the Lioness program in which she searched Iraqi women returning home from the local stores.

As a career fighter pilot, Slocum logged over 4,100 flying hours in the F-4 Phantom, the F-16 Falcon, the A-10 Warthog and the KC-135 Stratotanker. These missions took him all over the world and prepared him for the greater mission of pioneering safety initiatives to protect our men and women in uniform.

Stories of service will span 70 years, from Art Fischman's experiences serving in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II to Cassie Michael's service with the Marines in Iraq from 2006 to 2010.

See SERVICE page 11 ▶



Detroiter Tyrone Chatman will recount stories of his time in the Army in Vietnam and his work providing services to Veterans and homeless people.

Know and go:

What: Stories of Service

When: Nov. 6, doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins at 7 p.m.

Where: Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor

Tickets: available at storiesofservice.org and at the door if any are left. You can donate online and at the event.

FISHER HOUSE MICHIGAN PRESENTS

STORIES OF SERVICE



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Hire a vet — MI Vet job fair 11/5

JIM MCBEE
Managing editor

If you're a veteran who needs a job or a career reboot, check out Hire MI Vet's annual employment event Nov. 5 at Washtenaw Community College.

"We've been very, very successful," said Don Deatrick, the organization's president and member of a family that boasts four generations of military service. Last year's event saw 25 of 76 veterans walk away with jobs, he said, whereas most career fairs only employ 7-10% of attendees.

You might be surprised in this time of high employment how many veterans are jobless, Deatrick said. He cited Monique Beck, an Air Force veteran who got out of the military only to face divorce. She was living in her car with her three children when she came into contact with Hire MI Vet through the Veterans Administration.

Beck wound up in a job finding jobs for other vets, and finished her bachelor's degree in vocational rehabilitation. In 2016, she was chosen to attend the White House Summit on Homelessness as part of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, an initiative championed by Michelle Obama.

This year's event will feature 32 employers representing a wide range of fields and levels, Deatrick said, including entry-level jobs and internships. Participants include insurers Delta Dental and Blue Cross Blue Shield, Liebherr-Aerospace, Busch's Market and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

All former military are welcome, Deatrick

said, but "we're focusing on recent veterans." "It's very difficult to reach young veterans," he said.

Hire MI Vet was founded when the Veterans Administration, "looking for some partners," came to Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Very quickly, 25 Rotarians got together and organized a 2015 job fair. Hire MI Vets got its nonprofit status in 2018.

Everyone involved is a volunteer and includes "highly skilled people — doctors, lawyers, etc.," Deatrick said. "I call it my dream team."

The organization also holds informal, monthly meet-and-greets between veterans and employers. A few volunteers mentor veterans on job-search skills such as writing cover letters and compiling resumes. "I've mentored five or six veterans," Deatrick said. ●

Know and go

What: Hire MI Vet job fair

When: 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 5

Where: Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor

Info: hiremivet.org/hmvhe



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Boober, book update



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

My book, "Rising out of Depression and going Up the Royal Road," is progressing. We got feedback from the publisher and he said that I need to publish my "100 reasons" and explain more about how I found Buddhism. This is a really great story that comes around full-circle.

My advertising business is going along really well. My newest advertiser, Fran 10k, is submitting me for an advertising award: the Obie Award. Fran has told me that I am the best person he has ever worked with in his career of advertising. He says I am a real pro. He has lined up three new advertisers for me for 2020, which is huge for Boober. It costs a lot of money just to build an app; I feel it will be even more money to advertise the app. So, my dreams are coming true — I will finally be able to pay salaries to my top guys who have been working tirelessly.

We have a great new addition to our staff. Ray, who used to work for us, was going through an extreme rough time — he had lost his daughter to a car-jacking — and couldn't work for a while. Recently, I was at a special event at the Heritage Festival and a lady came up to me, asked about Ray and told me how helpful he was last year. So I called him up and asked him if he wanted to work. I Ubered him here a few months ago. He has really stepped up and has been a tremendous help being a leader at the shop and alleviating a lot of my stressors. He also offers a lot of wisdom at solving problems that have helped save Boober money. ●

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THINK ABOUT IT

NOVEMBER 2019

Mental illness among the homeless: consequence, not just cause

SANDRA S.
Vendor No. 233

In last month's article, I talked about how trauma can have symptoms of depression. I insisted that homelessness deserves to be treated as a real form of trauma. So, this month I will talk a little more in depth about depression.

Depression is also common among the homeless community. Symptoms of depression are quite common in someone dealing with issues around housing.

Signs of depression include: depressed mood, feelings of sadness or emptiness, loss of interest or pleasure in previously enjoyed activities, significant weight changes, restlessness or slowing of activities, persistent fatigue or loss of energy, excessive feelings of guilt or worthlessness, persistent difficulty with concentration or decision-making, sleeping pattern changes, and suicidal behaviors or recurrent thoughts of suicide.

But the commonly known type of depression (major depression) isn't the only one that exists. There's also a diagnosis in the DSM-5 called bipolar disorder, formerly called manic-depression.

The difference between major depression and bipolar disorder is that, with bipolar, typical symptoms are exaggerated: alongside episodes of deep depression can come feelings of grandiosity or extreme self-importance, decreased need for sleep or feeling rested after minimal sleep, racing thoughts or frequent change of topics or ideas, distractibility that may involve attention to



NOVEMBER 2019

AROUND TOWN

10 for \$10

Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

Groundcover staff

Looking for something to do that won't break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10 for \$10** is here to provide you with low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County.

1 All Hallows Illumination of Frog Island. Not sure what to do with your jack-o-lantern after Halloween? Take it and the fam down to the park in Ypsi and light it with perhaps hundreds of others. It's one more chance to wear that costume. 699 Rice St, Ypsilanti. 7-9 p.m., Nov. 1. **Free.**

2 Stewardship Workday: Kuebler Langford Nature Area. Help volunteers remove non-native shrubs and collect native seeds. Meet at the park entrance on Beechwood Drive, north of Sunset Road. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. All participants must complete a release form, and minors should be accompanied by a guardian. Tools, snacks and know-how provided. 1600 Beechwood Drive, Ann Arbor. 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 2. **Free.**

3 "Other People's Words." Cairo-based artist Amira Hanafi discusses story projects about human-rights defenders of Egypt's 2011 uprising. U-M Donia Human Rights Center, 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. 4-5:30 p.m., Nov. 4. **Free.**

4 Saline Fall Craft Show. Check out more than 150 booths displaying crafts from all over Michigan and beyond at Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple Road, Saline. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 9. **\$5.**

5 Sunday Artisan Market. Each Sunday, there's a juried market of local handmade arts and crafts at the Farmers Market in Kerrytown, Ann Arbor. Check out artist demonstrations on making cork bags and enter a raffle. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 10. **Free.**

6 Arlington Michigan Display. Veterans for Peace will hold a ceremony and display of 230 crosses, one for each of the Michigan soldiers killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Southwest corner of Veterans Park, 2150 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. 11 a.m., Nov. 11. **Free.**

7 Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile. In ancient times, pilgrims traveled to Kush, a kingdom in what is now northern Sudan, and left their marks on temples, pyramids and other monuments. Docents at Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (434 S. State St., Ann Arbor) lead a tour of the current exhibit. 2-3 p.m., Nov. 16. **Free.**

8 String Showcase. Students at U-M School of Music perform solo and ensemble chamber works at U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m., Nov. 20. **Free.**

9 Fall Fireside Storytime. Take the little ones (ages 3-8) to Independence Lake to hear guest reader and literacy advocate Natalie d'Aubermont Thompson. Afterward, go on a nature hike. A blanket is recommended. Dress for the weather. 3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake. 10-11:30 a.m., Nov. 23. **Free**, but advance registration is required: bit.ly/2P1MhK1

10 Pop on Main Street. Support small businesses in downtown Milan and enjoy pop-up markets, food trucks, artisans and vendors. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 30.

Want to contribute to **10 for \$10**? Send ideas for inexpensive experiences and treasures in and around our community to submissions@groundcovernews.com. ●

► SERVICE from page 6

for help and, in that moment, Michael recognized their shared humanity. With the change of outlook, she came to treasure her experiences as a Lioness, thankful that she got to know the women and the local police as people. It forever changed her perspective on conflict and led to a categorical rejection of demonizing groups of people. It allowed her to reclaim her humanity.

"I realized that everybody has a story ... if we treated each other with just an ounce more compassion and respect, the world would be so much better," Michael said.

No welcome home

Among the night's storytellers will be Tyrone Chatman, who joined the Army with a buddy at the age of 17 to escape the poverty of east Detroit. His father was a Korean war veteran and alcoholic with too many children, so the boys were expected to get out and support themselves as soon as they were old enough.

"We got fresh milk and real eggs, so go Army!" Chatman quipped.

Chatman was trained as a radio operator and ran the communications system for his unit when he was stationed in Hanau, Germany. In Vietnam, he was part of the Pacification Initiative, meeting with chiefs and villagers in little hamlets to secure their cooperation and intelligence in exchange for support and protection.

Chatman has a "Pandora's box of bad memories" from that time that left him with PTSD, but being a military adviser "was a profound experience": He trained the South Vietnamese to take over so U.S. troops could return home. He carries the emotional scars of losing compatriots in battle and then being spurned upon his return to the states.

"They stripped us from our fatigues and weapons. They dressed me up, put me on an airplane and shipped me home. I got to the airport and there were all these people not welcoming me, but yelling at me! I took a taxi to my mom's house. It was my family that welcomed me home. My dad, formerly military, insisted I wear my uniform and go with him to the bar. After several bar fights, I told my father I wasn't ever going to wear that uniform again, and for many years I didn't. If I wanted to get a job, I had to stop saying I was a Vietnam vet. I went into the closet and didn't come out again until 1986 when we had a giant welcome-home party for ourselves at a farm in Indiana."

Chatman became a leader in Detroit, helping people who struggle with addiction and homelessness. In the 1980s, he was a drug and alcohol counselor with the Proactive-Intervention Program in the Cass Corridor, a drop-in sub-acute detoxification program for indigent

people. As he took on more responsibility, he diversified services and instituted an R&R program so people would have four-hour blocks of time to rest and recover from the rigors of homeless living. He added hot meals from local restaurants and nights at local motels. He went on to create a first-aid station for injured street people, a 24-hour multi-service program to assist people who were unhoused and a respite facility so people without homes could recover after a hospital stay.

"When the governor eliminated general assistance and homelessness exploded, I got the opportunity to buy a building. NIMBY (not in my back yard) is everywhere. This way I could make improvements and not worry about rental renewals." The Neighborhood Service Organization is still there but will be moving soon due to the gentrification of what is now known as Midtown.

Chatman's many volunteer efforts were recognized in 1999 with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leader Award, the Americanism Award from the American Legion and he got the Spirit of Detroit Award six times. Organizations he founded are still operational and he is active with them; he also serves as the CEO and executive director of the Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit. ●



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

9	2	6	3	8	1	7	5	4
3	1	5	7	9	4	6	8	2
8	7	4	5	6	2	3	1	9
5	6	8	2	4	9	1	7	3
1	3	9	8	7	5	2	4	6
2	4	7	6	1	3	8	9	5
6	5	1	4	3	8	9	2	7
4	9	3	1	2	7	5	6	8
7	8	2	9	5	6	4	3	1



Pear, pomegranate & spinach salad

ELIZABETH BAUMAN

Groundcover contributor

Salad

2/3 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, toasted
 3/4 cup pomegranate arils
 3 oz. feta cheese, crumbled
 1/2 cup dried cranberries
 2 Bartlett pears (firm, but ripe), cored and sliced
 9 oz. baby spinach

Dressing

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 1½ Tbsp. honey
 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
 Salt and pepper to taste

Place all salad ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk dressing ingredients in a small bowl, drizzle on salad and lightly toss. Serve immediately.



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